

Appl. No. 09/580,819
Atty. Docket No. 7606R
Amdt. dated June 04, 2004
Reply to Office Action of 04/22/2004
Customer No. 27752

REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's constructive suggestions (p. 6, para 13) in the Office Action of April 22, 2004. Such suggestions are adopted herein, with one exception noted below. The Examiner's suggestions are acknowledged to greatly expedite prosecutions on the merits.

All claims are rejected under 35 USC §102 as anticipated by Allen et al. (6,334,856) and/or Gerstel et al. (3,964,482), or as obvious in view of Allen et al. further in view of Reed et al. (5,676,850). The Office Action acknowledges (p. 3, para. 7) that Allen et al. does not show a hollow element having at least two sharp projections proximal to an end of the hollow element and that Reed et al. discloses an edged contour perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the element. Gerstel et al. is simply used to show particular dimensions (p. 3, para. 5).

Claims 1-7, 13-19, and 25-27 are rejected as unpatentable over Claims 1-25 of commonly assigned U.S. Pat. No. 6,652,478 (Gartstein et al.) in view of 6,334,856 (Allen et al.). A terminal disclaimer over commonly assigned Gartstein et al. is enclosed herewith and is believed sufficient to overcome the double patenting rejection.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended, consistent with the Examiner's suggestion, to recite that the elongate sharp edge is on the outer surface of the projection and extends in a direction from the base of the projection towards the distal end of the projection. Basis for this amendment is found in Fig. 34.

Dependent Claim 29 is added to recite that the sharp edge extends entirely from the proximal end of the projection to the distal end of the projection. Basis for this claim is found in Figs. 32 and 35.

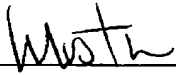
Claim 13 is amended, consistent with the Examiner's suggestion, to recited that the elongate edge of the microneedle is parallel to the longitudinal axis of the microneedle. However, Applicants respectfully submit it is unnecessary to recite that the microneedle is hollow, as the elongate edge being parallel to the longitudinal direction is not found in the prior art.

All matters raised by the Office Action are believed to be addressed by the terminal disclaimer and amendments made hereunder. Applicants again gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's constructive suggestions to expedite prosecution on the merits. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and allow all claims remaining in the application.

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